

The eight capitals

WealthWorks simplifies things by organizing these local features into eight discrete **capitals**, which are defined in the table below and share the following characteristics: each capital is a collection of one category of related resources; every region has a stock of each type of capital—meaning the combined quantity and quality of the many components of that capital in the region; and taken together, the existing stocks of these capitals constitute a region’s current wealth.

The capital	The definition
 Individual	The existing stock of skills, understanding, physical health and mental wellness in a region’s people.
 Intellectual	The existing stock of knowledge, resourcefulness, creativity and innovation in a region’s people, institutions, organizations and sectors.
 Social	The existing stock of trust, relationships and networks in a region’s population.
 Cultural	The existing stock of traditions, customs, ways of doing, and world views in a region’s population.
 Natural	The existing stock of natural resources—for example, water, land, air, plants and animals—in a region’s places.
 Built	The existing stock of constructed infrastructure—for example, buildings, sewer systems, broadband, roads—in a region’s places.
 Political	The existing stock of goodwill, influence and power that people, organizations and institutions in the region can exercise in decision-making.
 Financial	The existing stock of monetary resources available in the region for investment in the region.



THE CAPITALS: DETAILED DEFINITIONS

INTELLECTUAL: The knowledge, creativity, and innovation needed to solve problems and develop new ways of doing things. Investment in intellectual capital is through research and development and support for activities that increase innovation, as well as diffusion of new knowledge and applications. It can come from sharing with other people and communities.

SOCIAL: The trust, networks, and inclusive relationships needed to get things done. Investments in social capital are those that lead to new conversations, shared experiences, and connections between individuals and groups and/or strengthen relationships within groups.

CULTURAL: The traditions, customs and beliefs shared by the community, including the way you see the world. Investments in cultural capital can help to preserve tradition while also helping to shift and align beliefs in ways that help people develop shared values and history.

INDIVIDUAL: The skills and capacity, including health, that allow individuals to be productive. Investments in human capital include spending on skill development, education, training, and health maintenance and improvement.

NATURAL: The productive environmental assets (e.g., air, water, land, minerals, plants, animals, fish, ecosystem services) in a region. Investments in natural capital include restoration and maintenance.

BUILT: The fully functioning constructed infrastructure (e.g., buildings, sewer treatment plants, manufacturing and processing plants, energy, transportation, communications infrastructure, technology) needed to support community well-being. Investment in physical capital is in construction, renovation, and maintenance. Built capital depreciates with use and requires ongoing investment to maintain its value.

POLITICAL: The voice, power and influence over decisions needed to achieve your goals, including the distribution of resources. Investments in political capital are made through inclusive organizing – gathering and disseminating information, providing access to decision makers, creating broader constituencies and increased voice.

FINANCIAL: Financial capital, including investments and personal savings, generates monetary returns that can be used for further investment or consumption. Stewardship of financial capital implies responsible investment to generate added income as well as eliminate unnecessary cost or waste. In creating wealth, we strive to invest financial capital in ways that increase and improve the quality of the other six forms of capital.